December 20, 2019

Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)

DN-199 Culvert Rehabilitation Project (EA: 01-48801)
WDID No. 1A190196WNDN, ECM PIN CW-862631

Del Norte County

On October 24, 2019, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the California Department of Transportation (Applicant/Caltrans), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities associated with the DN-199 Culvert Rehabilitation (EA: 01-48801) Project (Project).

Project Location

The proposed Project will cause disturbances to waters of the state associated with Griffin Creek and unnamed tributaries to Smith River and Rogue River within the Smith River Hydrologic Unit No. 103.11 and Rogue River Hydrologic Unit No. 102.20. The Project is located approximately 9 miles east of Crescent City in Del Norte County on US 199 beginning at Post Mile (PM) 6.55 and extending to PM 36.30, Hiouchi, Del Norte County, at latitude 41.874 °N, and longitude 123 .841 °W at PM 6.55, and 41.995 °N, and longitude 123.720 °W at PM 36.30.

Project Description

The primary purpose of the Project is to protect the structural integrity of the roadway by replacing or rehabilitating eleven deteriorating culverts and improve fish passage through the Griffin Creek culvert (PM 31.31) on United States Highway 199 (US 199) in Del Norte County. The identified drainage structures have either severely failed inverts or are separated and misaligned. Barriers to fish passage at the outlet of the Griffin Creek crossing are preventing up stream fish migration.

Nine of the eleven culverts were determined to be jurisdictional under sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act. Rehabilitation strategies include drainage system replacement using cut and cover methods, culvert lining, and correcting deficient inlet and/or outlet conditions. The proposed improvements at Griffin Creek will modify the outlet conditions for improved fish passage and reduce jump height for improved juvenile fish passage. Temporary impacts to habitat include re-establishment of an access road and a temporary clear water diversion. The following describes the nature of work at each drainage system at the SR 199 Post Miles indicated.

<u>Location 2 PM 10.10</u>
Clear construction access and use the cut & cover method to install a 24-inch Corrugated Steel Pipe (CSP) (47-linear feet (LF)) in two sections to avoid a redwood

tree. A concrete pipe inlet with a grate (GCP inlet) will be installed at the pipe intersection and the existing headwall will be removed and replaced. Install a flared end section (FES) and place rock slope protection (RSP) (7-LF) at the outlet. The existing 24-inch CSP (40-LF) will be abandoned in place.

Location 3 PM 10.35
Clear construction access and remove the existing 24-inch CSP (46-LF). Remove and replace the existing drainage inlet. The cut & cover method will be used to install a 24-inch CSP (46-LF) along the existing alignment with RSP (6-LF) placed at the outlet.

Location 4 PM 22.25
Clear construction access and remove the existing headwall and the existing 18-inch CSP (52.5-LF). The cut & cover method will be used to install a 21-inch x 15-inch cast in place arch (CSPA) (52.5 -LF) culvert. A FES will be constructed at both the upstream and downstream ends of the new culvert.

Location 5 PM 27.91
Clear construction access and remove the existing 18-inch CSP (56-LF) culvert. Remove and replace the existing drainage inlet. The cut & cover method will be used to install a 24-inch x 18-inch CSPA (56-LF) culvert along the existing alignment with RSP (12-LF) placed at the outlet.

Location 6 PM 29.43
Clear construction access and excavate a liner pit (30-LF). Remove and replace the existing FES. A 42-inch HDPE liner (192-LF) will be installed within the existing 48-inch CSP culvert. One tree will be removed.

Location 7 PM 30.50
Clear construction access and remove the existing 24-inch CSP (74-LF) culvert with downdrain. Remove and replace the existing drainage inlet. The cut & cover method will be used to install a 24-inch CSP (74-LF) replacement culvert and downdrain along the existing alignment with RSP (12-LF) placed at the outlet.

Location 9 PM 31.31
Construct fish passage improvements to existing fish passage culvert. Remove existing downdrain (approximately 120-LF), install fish screens, and perform aquatic species relocation. Set up clear water diversion and remove existing steel baffle at culvert outlet. Remove and replace concrete invert, remove and reconstruct existing weirs (11.5-LF), and construct a new additional downstream weir (14.5-LF). Demolish deficient weirs and perform grading. Reinstall the existing downdrain. Three trees will be removed.

Location 10 PM 33.07
Remove downdrain (199-LF), clear areas on both sides of highway for construction access and excavate two liner pits, both (30-LF). A 28” HDPE liner (277-LF) will be

installed within the existing 30” CSP culvert. The elbow/reducer, cables, 18” downdrain, and FES will all be replaced.

Location 11 PM 34.52
Clear for construction access on both sides of the highway and excavate two liner pits (30-LF) and (30-LF). A 28” HDPE liner (204-LF) will be installed within the existing 30” CSP culvert. Remove and replace the existing FES; RSP (12-LF) will be placed at the outlet.

Construction Timing
The Project is planned to begin in August of 2020 and end in October 2021 with construction work planned to last approximately 111 days. Instream work (i.e., below the ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) would be scheduled from June 15 to October 15.

Project Impacts
Permanent impacts to waters of the state include approximately 85.5 linear feet of new additional pipe and RSP placed at some outlets and includes new concrete fill for construction of the new weir. Permanent impacts include the removal of four riparian trees. Temporary impacts to waters of the state include approximately 1441 linear feet while work is being conducted.

Avoidance, Minimization and Mitigation for Project Impacts
Project construction includes implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) and a Water Pollution Control Plan (WPCP) to reduce temporary and permanent water quality impacts. Caltrans will submit a Revegetation and Monitoring Plan to address permanent and temporary impacts associated with the Project. Fish passage improvements at Location 9 will increase fish access to 9,700-feet of upstream habitat.

Other Agency Permits
The Applicant has applied to the United States Army Corps of Engineers for a Nationwide Permit No. 3 (Non-Reporting) pursuant to section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Additionally, the Applicant has applied for a 1600 Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). The Project location is in Designated Critical Habitat for Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) and is designated as Essential Fish Habitat (EFH); Project activities are authorized by US Fish and Wildlife and National Marine Fisheries Services under programmatic Biological Opinions.

CEQA
The Caltrans, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that the Project qualifies for a Negative Declaration. The Draft Initial Study was circulated to the public for 30 days between November 2, 2018, and December 3, 2018. Caltrans filed a Notice of Determination (NOD) at the State Clearinghouse (SCH) on February 5, 2019 (SCH # 2019112009).

Public Comments

Regional Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this Project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act authority. The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the Applicant's proposed activities. The application for Water Quality Certification in the Regional Water Board's file contains additional details about the proposed Project including maps and photos. The application and Regional Water Board file are available for public review at the Regional Water Board office, 5550 Skylane Blvd, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California. Staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and received at this office by mail during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this notice and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. Appointments are recommended for document review and can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.

If you have any questions, please contact staff member Susan Stewart at Susan.Stewart@waterboards.ca.gov or (707) 576-2657 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

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